

# BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



Enclosure 2a  
April 5, 2012

## Meeting

RIDE

Thursday, March 1, 2012 - 4:00 p.m.

## MINUTES

**Attending:** George Caruolo (chairman), Lorne Adrain, Colleen Callahan,  
Robert Carothers, Karin Forbes, Patrick Guida (joined meeting in progress),  
Mat Santos, Betsy Shimberg

**Absent:** Carolina Bernal

**The meeting convened at 4:05 p.m.**

Chairman Caruolo welcomed everyone and asked for a motion to accept the agenda.

### Acceptance of Agenda

On a motion duly made by Regent Forbes and seconded by Regent Shimberg, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education accept the day's agenda.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, R. Carothers, C. Callahan  
K. Forbes, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

### Approval of Minutes

On a motion duly made by Regent Santos and seconded by Regent Callahan, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approve the minutes of the

February 2, 2012 – Board of Regents Meeting  
February 2, 2012 – Board of Regents Executive Session  
February 16, 2012 – Board of Regents Work Session

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative, as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, R. Carothers, C. Callahan  
K. Forbes, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

### **Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Gist gave an update on the following:

#### **PARCC Assessment**

PARCC is looking to implement the online testing beginning in the 2014-15 school year (Spring of 2015).

RIDE has been working with districts to have a better understanding of districts' current capabilities.

RIDE has developed a committee of Technology Directors who will be working with RIDE's new Knowledge Officer to help implement this tool and share information throughout all districts.

RIDE is well positioned because it will be able to take some of the information it has collected from the current technology survey to pre-populate some fields for the districts.

The data collection will begin April 2<sup>nd</sup> and continue through June 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### **RTTT Year 2 Quarter 2 Report**

Commissioner Gist shared some highlights of the Race to the Top Quarter 2 (December 1, 2011 – February 29, 2012) implementation status report.

- Implementation of educator evaluation is well under way across the state.
- Training and support for those LEAs implementing the Rhode Island Model continues throughout this year.
- We are currently accepting feedback based on this year's gradual implementation, and we will roll out a refined model this summer in advance of full implementation next school year.

## **Charter Public School Renewals – Report on Progress –**

In the coming weeks, RIDE will be asking the BOR for approval of renewal recommendations for several charter public schools. The renewal recommendations will fall into two sets:

- The first set of renewals includes the New England Laborers Academy, Compass Charter School, and the Blackstone Academy, whose charters will expire at the conclusion of the current school year.
- The second set of renewal recommendations includes the Academy for Career Exploration (ACE - formerly Textron) and Beacon Charter School, whose charters expire at the conclusion of the 2012-13 school year.

## **ESEA Flexibility Request –**

Commissioner Gist commended Deputy Abbott and other RIDE staff members who worked very hard in developing an impressive flexibility request submitted to the U.S. Department of Education earlier in the week requesting flexibility regarding provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act. If granted, it will set Rhode Island on a path toward having a really high-quality accountability system.

## **David Coleman Visit –**

Commissioner Gist shared how pleased she was that some of the Regents were able to join her in welcoming David Coleman, one of the lead authors of the Common Core State Standards, who came to Rhode Island to share his views and expertise with more than 300 teachers, school leaders, and other friends of education.

## **Dissertation –**

Commissioner Gist updated the BOR on her dissertation, a leadership case study of RIDE's work leading the development of the educator-evaluation system that is truly beneficial to R.I. teachers, with a focus on the leadership team at RIDE.

## **Recognition of the Recipients of the 2011 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching**

Chairman Caruolo congratulated the recipients, commended them for their effort and dedication to the children of Rhode Island, and recognized them with a BOR certificate:

- Carolyn Higgins – Winman Junior High School, Warwick
- Maureen Kennedy – Scituate Middle School
- David Mather – Warwick Veterans Memorial High School
- Bryan Nelson – Curtis Corner Middle School, South Kingstown
- Barbara Walton-Faria – Frank E. Thompson Middle School, Newport

## **Chairman's Remarks**

Chairman Caruolo deferred Chairman's Remarks.

## **Public Remarks**

Megan Khatchadorian – RI ACLU – Spoke in opposition to the Zero Tolerance Policy regarding the student medication component of the proposed Health Regulations.

Dale Klatzker – President and CEO of the Providence Center – Spoke in support of the Providence Center Recovery High School Program.

## **Discussion Items**

### **Introduction to Virtual Learning**

Commissioner Gist began by reminding the Board of the recent Virtual Learning event that took place about a month ago at Rhode Island College, which served as a great opportunity for introducing Virtual Learning to Rhode Island.

Although R.I. is only about one of seven states nationwide that does not have a statewide access to virtual learning, Commissioner Gist is very confident that with the BOR leadership, the work that is being done with principals and teachers across the state, and a grant that RIDE has been awarded to tackle this work, will all place R.I. in a position of becoming a model and setting the pace for the rest of the country.

This brand new set of regulations will be an important part of RIDE's ability to ensure that virtual education, digital learning, and blended learning in Rhode Island are of high quality, promote flexibility, and broaden educational opportunities for all students.

Sharon Lee, Director of the Office of Multiple Pathways, went over:

- What is Virtual Learning?
- State of Virtual Learning in Rhode Island,
- Barriers to Student Access,
- Statewide Efforts, and
- Next Steps for Board of Regents – Policy Work

In the following weeks, RIDE will be bringing to the BOR issue briefs that drill down into more detailed information and also draft regulations.

## **Certification Redesign – New Testing Requirements**

Commissioner Gist reminded the BOR that the Certification Regulations that they approved last November require them to now approve pedagogy tests and subject matter or field area tests for all certification areas that accompany the certification regulations

Since the adoption of the certification regulations in November, RIDE has considered testing options and vendors and has been collaborating with preparation programs to identify appropriate tests to meet the regulations that were adopted.

Lisa Foehr, Director of the Office of Educator Quality and Certification, walked the BOR through the draft proposal, timeline, and identified tests.

### **Approval Items**

#### **a. Approval and Adoption of the Board of Regents Regulations Governing Career and Technical Education in Rhode Island**

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Guida, it was

**VOTED:**        That                the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approves and adopts, effective July 1, 2012, the Board of Regents Regulations Governing Career and Technical Education in Rhode Island, which will supersede all previous rules and regulations pertaining to career and technical education and vocational education as presented.

Vote:                8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS:             G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, R. Carothers, C. Callahan, K. Forbes, P. Guida, B. Shimberg, M. Santos

NAYS:             0.

#### **b. Approval of the Providence Center Recovery High School Program**

On a motion duly made by Regent Santos and seconded by Regent Carothers, it was

**VOTED:**        That                the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Providence Center Recovery High School Program and authorizes its operation for a two (2)-year pilot period beginning with the 2012-13 school year as presented.

Vote:                8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, R. Carothers, C. Callahan, K. Forbes,  
P. Guida, B. Shimberg, M. Santos

NAYS: 0.

**c. Approval of the School Health Regulations for the Purpose of Public Hearing**

On a motion duly made by Regent Adrain and seconded by Regent Santos, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approves, for the purpose of public hearing, the School Health Regulations as presented.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, R. Carothers, C. Callahan, K. Forbes,  
P. Guida, B. Shimberg, M. Santos

NAYS: 0.

**d. Beacon Charter School v. Rhode Island Department of Education**

On a motion duly made by Regent Adrain and seconded by Callahan, it was

**VOTED:** That in the Matter of Beacon Charter School v. the Rhode Island Department of Education, it was voted that the decision of the Commissioner is Affirmed.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes,  
P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0.

**e. Foster School Department v. R. Doe**

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Forbes, it was

**VOTED:** That in the Matter of Foster School Department v. R. Doe, it was voted that the decision of the Commissioner is Affirmed.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, R. Carothers, C. Callahan, K. Forbes,  
P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0.

### **Executive Session**

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Forbes, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education  
convene in executive session to discuss:

Commissioner's Evaluation pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(1)

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted  
in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, R. Carothers, C. Callahan, K. Forbes, P. Guida,  
M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Regent Adrain had to leave at 6:00 p.m.

At 6:00 p.m. the Board of Regents went into recess to convene an executive session.

The Board of Regents returned to public session at 6:30 p.m. Chairman Caruolo reported  
that no votes were taken in executive session and that the minutes were sealed.

On a motion duly made by Regent Carothers and seconded by Regent Santos, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary  
Education adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted  
in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, R. Carothers, C. Callahan, K. Forbes, P. Guida,  
M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.